

## **Historic, Archive Document**

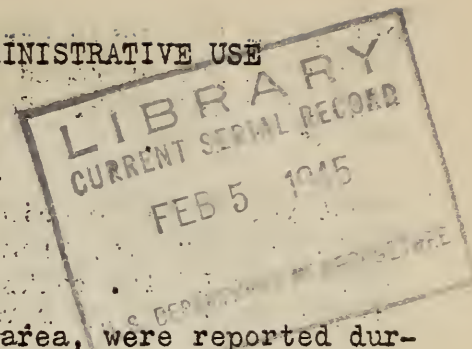
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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Office of Distribution  
821 Market Street - Rm. 700  
San Francisco 3, California  
Western Region

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS  
Week Ending October 20, 1944



FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apples -- The apple markets, in general over the western area, were reported during the week as being steady, with supplies moving into the markets in relatively large amounts. There are some small localities where difficulty in marketing was experienced apparently due to local grading and marketing facilities.

Fancy packed Delicious closed the week \$2.60 to \$3.00 per box. Jonathan and Rome Beautys covered a slightly wider range and were reported on the wholesale markets from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per box, with the northern apples holding at the top. Other varieties were as low as \$2.00 per box. A wide range of varieties are now available including Winesaps, Spitzenbergs, Grimes Golden, Kings, Newtown Pippens, Gravensteins, and Winter Bananas.

The total carlot movement of apples, for this season to date, is 15,519 cars. This represents a 24 percent increase above the carlot movement for last year to the same date.

Grapes -- The rainstorm this week resulted in storm warnings being issued for the weekend to the San Joaquin Valley raisin growers. They were urged to roll or stack all raisins that were still uncovered and in the field. Probably less than 10 percent of the crop now remains in the field.

Total carlot movement of grapes within the United States, to date for this season, amounts to 17,940 cars, a 16 percent increase over the carlot movement for last year to the same date. Fifty-six percent of this year's carlot movement is represented by table grapes, the balance being both black and white wine or juice varieties.

Shipping point sales in the San Joaquin Valley of California show that most malagas were delivered at \$2.50 per lug, U.S. No. 1 Emperor at \$3.00 per lug, and Tokay at \$2.25 to \$2.40 per lug. On the wholesale markets 28 pound lugs of Tokay grapes were quoted at \$3.50 to \$3.75 in the Pacific northwest markets and in southwest from \$2.80 to \$3.25. Muscats were as high as \$3.25 to \$4.00 per lug on the northwestern markets and \$2.80 to \$3.25 in the southwest. Juice grapes (Alicantes and Zinfandels) in single lug lots went at \$2.25 to \$2.75 in the northwest and \$1.40 per ton in the California markets.

Pears -- Pear shipments this season, are now 12165 cars equal to those of last year to the same date.

On the wholesale markets in the northwest Bartletts, wrapped and packed in 38 lb. boxes, were quoted at \$3.25 to \$3.75 per box. In California the range was from \$3.50 to \$4.70 for best stock. D'Anjous fancy packed in 38 lb. boxes brought up to \$4.75.

Cranberries -- Shipments of cranberries into wholesale markets throughout the United States total 308 cars for this season. This is approximately one half the amount for last year to the same date. Daily shipments amount to 22 cars, with Wisconsin contributing 16 cars to the daily total. Shipments are being made from Maine, Washington, Wisconsin and New Jersey.



Onions -- The daily carlot movement of onions throughout the United States for the past week has averaged 160 cars. This is a slight increase over the daily movement for last week. To this amount, the western states contributed a daily average of 77 cars.

Local yellow globe onions in 50 lb. sacks ranged in price, on the four western wholesale markets, from \$1.25 to \$1.75 at the close of the week. U. S. No. 1 sweet Spanish in 50 lb. sacks sold at \$1.00 to \$1.25, with a few sales of fair quality stocks to as low as \$.75.

Potatoes -- October 1, 1944 production estimates indicates a possible production of 302,677,000 bushels for the 30 late states. For Idaho, the late potato production is estimated at 36,900,000 bushels, and for the 7 western states producing late potatoes the estimated production is 91,335,000 bushels. These figures represent an 18 percent decrease from the October 1 estimates of 1943 for the 30 late states, a 19 percent decrease in the estimates for Idaho on that date, and a 15 percent decrease for the 7 western late producing states.

Cash prices to growers in the Idaho Falls district for this week were \$1.65 to \$1.75, including hauling, on U.S. No. 1 Size A russets. Five cents additional was allowed for delivered stocks. On the 4 western wholesale markets, Idaho russets and California russets U.S. No. 1 size A sold at \$3.00 to \$3.50 per 100 lb. at the close of the week. In the Pacific northwest, white rose and netted gems from Oregon and Washington, points of origin brought \$2.90 to \$3.00 per 100 lb. for U.S. No. 1. In California, San Joaquin Valley and Tehachapi, U.S. No. 1 long-whites brought \$3.30 to \$3.50 per 100 lb. for U.S. No. 1.

Tomatoes -- In the western region states the tomato crop for both canning and fresh consumption is nearing the end of the season except for Washington and California. Much of the canning stock has been harvested in these states, leaving fresh stock from the warmer sections from which 396 cars have been shipped during the past week.

At the close of the week, supplies on the Portland market were reported as being heavy and sold as low as \$1.60 per lug. Local tomatoes from the Oregon section in 18 lb. flats ranged from 90 cents to \$1.00. On the California market, 4 by 5 and 5 by 6 two layer L.A. lugs of good quality sold at \$1.75 to \$2.50. Poorer quality stock of the same size pack sold as low as 75 cents.

Lettuce -- Fall crop lettuce coming from California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, where there is an estimated 1944 crop of 6,285,000 crates compared with 5,688,000 crates in 1943 and 4,521,000 crates as a 10 year average from 1933 to 1942, is reported somewhat weaker on the wholesale markets for the past week. Local stock in the Pacific northwest has been moved at \$2.00 to \$3.25 per crate with Seattle reporting the lowest on the scale. California and Idaho stock was bringing \$3.50 to \$4.25 on those markets. On the California markets 3 and 4 dozen head crates were reported from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per crate.

#### DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Butter -- Butter supplies for consumers have continued short and below demand. All markets report that prices continue at the full ceiling level. Indications are that production will continue lower until toward the first of the year.

Eggs -- From the standpoint of the producer and the dealer, the egg market in the western region states improved during the week. Prices moved upward from 1 to 2 cents and demand was good on all grades with improvement in the cold storage stock prices. In Seattle small eggs were reported to have made a net gain of 7 cents during the week.



Poultry -- Increased demand for poultry and lighter supplies on the western markets resulted in increase up to 1 cent per lb. on leghorn hens. Most receipts of the western markets appeared to be light and receiving firms indicated that receipts this week had been the lightest in several months. This did not seem to apply to dressing plants as they are at present fully occupied in moving turkeys.

Cheese -- The WFA announced, that the November and December set aside requirements for Cheddar cheese has been reduced from 40 percent to 25 percent.

### LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle -- Receipts of livestock on the 12 principal markets during the past week declined approximately 5 percent from receipts for the previous week. In the western market the trend was upward approximately 15 percent, and prices declined 25 to 50 cents. Top price on the Pacific Coast for fed steers was reported at \$15.75, with most of the "fed steer" classes ranging from \$13.00 to \$14.50. Top prices for stockers were reported up to \$11.50. Good to choice feeders ranged from \$12.75 to \$14.00.

Hogs -- Receipts of hogs on the 12 principal markets and also on the western markets were up approximately 9 percent over receipts for the previous week. Total number of hogs received on the 12 markets during this past week was 265,500 head. Most classes of hogs advanced from 25 to 50 cents with barrows and gilts at ceiling.

Sheep -- Receipts of sheep on the 12 principal markets declined approximately 4 percent but increased slightly on the western markets during the past week. Prices on medium to good lambs increased as much as 50 cents above the prices for last week. The top prices for good to choice lambs on the Pacific Coast markets was \$13.50 to \$14.00 while the inter-mountain markets indicated \$11.50 to \$13.75.

### GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat -- Winter wheat, already planted in the Northwestern area, is now germinating and appears in very good condition. However, some large areas are still in need of rain and germination has not commenced. Seeding of winter wheat is for the most part completed. This also applies to areas east of the Rocky Mountains for the earlier sown wheat which is making good head way, and is as high as six inches in many places.

Dark Red Winter wheat of the 1944 crop is reported to be of excellent quality, even better than that for the 1943 crop. The Hard Red winter wheat is of average quality for this season, and that of ordinary protein content sold for \$1.15 per bushel on the basis of No. 1 grade in bulk, with a fifteen day shipment permit for Coast delivery. The same price held in Portland for Soft White wheat while Western Red went at \$1.50  $\frac{1}{2}$  per bushel. Northwestern markets were reported rather slow while Kansas City remained steady throughout the week with prices for Hard Red winter wheat at \$1.61 to \$1.64 per bushel.

Ceiling levels characterized the mealfeed market during the week with the mealfeed production for the United States estimated at 93,700 tons compared with 93,400 tons for the previous week and 95,500 tons for the corresponding week last year. The demand for wheat mealfeed was more active on the Pacific Coast than at Central Western and Eastern points.

Corn -- Harvest of the 1944 corn crop is well under way and weather conditions are reported to be favorable for picking. However, in much of the area the crop is still too wet for satisfactory storing.

Alfalfa -- Production of alfalfa hay in California for 1944 has been estimated at 4,068,000 tons as of October 1, increase of 6 percent above the 1943 crop.

No. 1 alfalfa hay in California has remained at \$27.50 per ton baled at the ranch, and \$25.50 a ton baled at ranches for ungraded hay plus premiums for certificated hay.

Rice -- The rain storm on Friday morning caused some delay in an otherwise excellent harvesting program on the rice crop. Indications are that in California the 1944 rice harvest is approximately 50 percent complete. Yields per acre are somewhat lower than the earlier indications and lower than was expected. Prices on rough rice closed the week on the San Francisco market at \$3.57 per hundred in bulk for stock containing not more than 15 percent moisture and yielding 70 lbs. total milled products.

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